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# Rule of Dragons



dragons,

85 2 5

## Chapter 1 by Meilyn

Shimmer peeked out of the cave to check if the path was clear of dragons. The fire-breathing beasts had once been completely tame hunting animals, but had started to eat humans and destroy villages. Now it was almost impossible to even step into the light without encountering one of the massive reptilians.

"It's safe, mom!" Shimmer beckoned to her mother, at the back of the cavern.

## Chapter 2 by Kadife



The tiny cottage Shimmer shared with her mother was under a cliff. They'd built it there because it seemed like the cliff could protect them from dragons. They were wrong.

The other villagers who'd built their homes there had all left after the first raid. Shimmer's house had remained mostly untouched, just a couple scorch marks on the roof, so they'd stayed.

Shimmer had always been fascinated by dragons. They might've been evil creatures, but they were beautiful in their own way.

Shimmer and her mother scrambled out from the cave under the cliff. They ran as fast as they could into the house, slamming the door shut. The door had been locked, both of them let out a sigh of relief. They were safe. For now.

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"Now, let's get breakfast," said Shimmer's mother, picking up a pan and some eggs to start cooking. They continued their day as if nothing had happened.

"Mom, did you see the dragon that attacked us?" asked Shimmer, pulling out a paper and a charcoal pencil. She started sketching the giant reptile.

"Yes dear," said her mother absentmindedly. "I wish you'd stop your obsession over dragons! They're horrible beasts and destroy thousands of people and villages." Shimmer ignored her and her mother stopped talking.

There was a loud thump from the outside. Shimmer's mother said, "Oh for the love of-" she was interrupted by a sharp movement of the house.

"Mom! They're picking up the house!" gasped Shimmer, staring out the window. This was unheard of. The dragons usually burned the house and ate the escaping humans.

Shimmer's mother ran to another window, and sure enough, when you looked straight down, there was nothing except the farmland, thousands of feet below!

"What are you doing Shimmer!" yelled Shimmer's mother who'd just caught sight of Shimmer legs poking out of the chimney.

"Whoa!" said Shimmer from the chimney. She thudded down and looked at her mother. "We're flying! The dragon's the prettiest one yet!" Shimmer flipped her other paper over and started drawing the new dragon.

"Yes, I know we're flying. The question is, where are we going?" said Shimmer's mother, looking grimly out of the window.

### Chapter 3 by Fiernen



That question was soon answered. They were ascending rapidly, evidenced by the popping in their ears. Through the window, Shimmer could see a tall mountain coming into view. As they

drew closer, she realized that they were going to crash right into the side of it unless the dragon turned away at the last minute.

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The dragon did not

Both Shimmer and her mother screamed and through their arms up as they struck the sheer side of the mountain. But no impact came. There was just the soft sound of fabric slipping aside. Somehow, the rocks, grasses, and dirt had all be made of fabric that a dragon could simply fly through.

They continued to fly for a short while longer. Then the dragon gently set the little house down. Shimmer strode over to the door.

"No!"

Shimmer stopped and looked back at her mother. "I'll be fine. The dragon doesn't want to kill us, right?" Before her mother could stop her, Shimmer was out the door.

She jerked to a halt. The dragon was right there.

It was huge. Each eye was the size of Shimmer's whole head. Every talon was as long as her whole body. The dragon had to be at least 20 times Shimmer's height. It's length was impossible to determine, it was so big.

It was also extraordinarily beautiful. It was covered in shining scales of a silvery blue. They seemed to shine from within. Shimmer had never seen such a beautiful creature.

They were in a cave. But it was like no cave Shimmer had ever known. The walls were covered in gems of all colours and sizes. They were shining like lanterns. The cave was large. Really huge. It would have to be to fit the dragon inside.

"Doubtless you are wondering why I'm not eating you."

Shimmer jumped about a foot in the air. The dragon watched her.

"Y-you can t-talk?" Shimmer stammered.

"Obviously."

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"B-but dragon can't talk!"

"I beg to differ. What I am

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"But I've never seen a dragon talk before."

"Have you ever tried to engage one in conversation?"

Shimmer gaped for a moment at the dragon. It occurred to her that the dragon was a female.

"From your silence I take that you haven't. Doubtless you believe dragons to be monster killing machines. I suspect that there is a great deal you do not know about dragons."

Shimmer found her voice again. "I don't think dragons are monster killing machines! I mean, I kind of did up until now, but I had always thought they were beautiful."

The dragon snorted. "Like a dumb tiger or cougar might be beautiful. A pretty wild creature. Oh, maybe the others were right. Maybe humans really are stupid, short-sighted, cruel creatures. Perhaps I should just eat you and be like all the others." The dragon considered Shimmer for a moment. "No, I don't think I could. Humans are just so helpless and oblivious. I might just let you run away."

"W-what?" Shimmer asked, thoroughly confused.

"Oh, the others said that humans were going to destroy the earth one day. That silly prophet dragon said that someday they would destroy the natural world with houses of metal and befoul the air and water. I don't see that such helpless creatures could do anything of the sort. You should run away. I believe that I was wrong. I thought humans might be better than the others thought if they gave them a chance. But we're just wild animals to you, after all."

"I won't run away. I don't think you're just a wild animal! Give me another chance!" Shimmer begged. The dragon paused.

"Fine. I'll give you a test to see if you're better than the others believe." She paused, thinking. Then she turned away. Shimmer felt a surge of disappointment. Then the dragon whirled around picked Shimmer up. She jumped into the air. Shimmer could hear her mother screaming below.

The dragon put Shimmer on a ledge. She looked up at the dragon. The dragon flew back down to the floor and settled down.

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"Convince the dragon living in my cave that I might decide to help save your species from my species fire. By the way, my name is Nandra."

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